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ABSTRACT

This report describes an annual study done at Cabrillo College (California) of all occupational graduates and students who left the college after taking a significant number of occupational education courses. The purpose of this study is to obtain the following data from Cabrillo's former students: employment status and location, salary level, whether their job relates to their studies at Cabrillo College, satisfaction with the college's offerings, and retraining needs. A total of 1,098 students were surveyed either by telephone or mail; the response rate was 41 percent. Findings included: (1) eight out of ten students were employed; (2) students who completed their programs and received certificates or degrees had higher percentages of employment than those who did not; (3) those who obtained certificates or degrees were less likely to be employed within the same county as Cabrillo College (Santa Cruz); (4) the majority of students who were employed indicated that their education at Cabrillo College was directly related to their jobs; (5) eight out of ten leavers--those who did not obtain a certificate or degree--said they would return to the college for retraining. Attached is a sample of the survey and correspondence with program directors. (EMH)

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ED 436 206

FOLLOW-UP SURVEY OF

VOC-ED PROGRAM COMPLETERS AND LEAVERS

Cabrillo College

Office of Institutional Research

6500 Soquel Drive

Aptos, CA 95003

July 1998

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Office of Educational Research and Improvement
EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)

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BACKGROUND

The Office of Institutional Research (OIR) was commissioned by the Dean's Office of Occupational and Community Development to conduct an annual follow-up study of all occupational graduates and those who left Cabrillo College after taking a significant number of occupational education courses. The purpose of the study is to uncover the following from Cabrillo College's former students, among other things:

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- Employment status
- Employment location
- Salary level
- Whether the education from Cabrillo College relates to the jobs they get after school
- Satisfaction of the programs offered at Cabrillo College
- The needs for retraining

DESIGN

The study identified **completers** as those who received certificates or an Occupational Associate of Science degree in the 1996-1997 academic year; and **leavers** as those who, after taking a total of 11.50 units of occupational courses within a program and left Cabrillo without re-enroll. This second group was further defined by these two criteria: 1) those who left after fall 1996 and did not re-enroll, and 2) those who left after spring 1997 and did not re-enroll.

FINDINGS

A total of 1,098 students were surveyed either by telephone or mail-out during a span of 1 month.

A total of 454 students responded resulting in a return rate of 41%.

Table one provides a summary of findings from all the students that responded, not by individual programs. Eight out of ten students were employed when surveyed. Completers had higher percentages of employment (85.9%). Most of the leavers (79.2%) were employed within Santa Cruz County, but only a little over half of the completers (54.3%) were employed within the county.

An overwhelming majority of the students who were employed, completers and leavers alike, informed us that their education from Cabrillo College was directly related to their jobs. Eight out of ten leavers said that they were planning on coming back for retraining some time in the near future, but slightly fewer completers said so (68.2%), understandably. Even so, it is still a significant number.

Table One

Employment, Work-site, Training related to Jobs, Returning to Take Classes, & Rating of Satisfaction

		Completers		Leavers	
		#	%	#	%
Total Surveyed:		194		904	
Total Responded:		95	49.0%	359	39.7%
Are you currently employed?	No	13	14.1	75	20.3
	Yes	79	85.9	295	79.7
Is your company located in Santa Cruz County?					
	No	37	45.7	60	20.8
	Yes	44	54.3	229	79.2
Are you working in the field that Cabrillo prepared you for?					
	No	14	17.9	65	23.0
	Yes	64	82.1	217	77.0
Do you plan to take more classes at Cabrillo in the near future?					
	No	28	31.8	57	16.6
	Yes	60	68.2	287	83.4

Students provided answers to an important question: how satisfied are they with the education and training they obtained from Cabrillo College. According to Table Two, more than half of them gave the top rating of five (5), and a total of 87% of them rated Cabrillo either a five or a four.

Table Two

Rating of Satisfaction

On a scale of 1 - 5, with 5 being the highest, how satisfied are you with the education or training you received from Cabrillo?

	Completers		Leavers	
	#	%	#	%
5	49	51.6	198	55.2
4	31	32.6	116	32.3
3	13	13.7	35	9.7
2	1	1.1	6	1.7
1	1	1.1	3	.8

Table Three provides information on salaries and full-time/part-time employment status. Most of Cabrillo College's former students were employed full-time (so they will be coming back to Cabrillo College as part time students, if they re-enroll). Completers had higher incomes than leavers in general, 12.5% higher than leavers to be exact. Half of the students earned around $30,000 a year on their jobs.

Table Three

Hours Worked and Annual Salary

		Completers		Leavers
Hours Worked Per Week		Average	36	37
Annual Salary	Average	34,638		30,284
	Median	30,000		30,000

This study did not analyze findings from individual programs because a small number remained for each program after respondents were divided into programs. The study chose a number of programs that had higher numbers as an attachment for reference only.

For further information, please contact OIR at 831/479-5719.

ATTACHMENT I – SAMPLE OF SURVEY

Number to dial: 408/458-xxxx

Script: I am ___ calling on behalf of Cabrillo College. May I please speak to Mr. xxxx? If the person is not in, or not willing to respond, ask when a good time would be to call back and confirm the number to call. Do not leave messages on machines. You were a former student at Cabrillo College and only you can help us answer a few important questions about our occupational programs. If I may, I'd like to ask a few questions that will take about 10 minutes of your time.

Questions for LEAVERS

1 . You were last enrolled at Cabrillo College in **Spring 96** after taking a number of **CEM** courses, and have not re-enrolled since then. Would you please tell us the main reason you did not re-enroll at Cabrillo?

2. Please select one from the following six items that best describes your primary purpose. They are:

A. you were here mainly to take a few classes

B. you were here mainly to update a specific job skill or renew license

C. you were here mainly to obtain transfer units with or without getting an Associate degree

D. you were here mainly to obtain a vocational degree, not to transfer

E. you were here both to obtain a vocational degree and to transfer

F. none of the above (ask to specify):

Note: Repeat the above if asked.

Questions for LEAVERS & COMPLETERS

1. Are you currently employed? **(If the answer is 'NO', skip to Questions 6,7,9,10)**

If so, which company are you currently working at?

2. Is it located within Santa Cruz County?

3. What is your current Job Title?

4. Are you working in the field that Cabrillo prepared you for? If not, why?

5. How many hours do you work every week?

6. How satisfied are you with the education and training you received from Cabrillo College on a scale of one to five (1 - 5) with five being most satisfied?

If person gives a rating of three or less ask and write down what the reasons were that he or she is not satisfied.

7. Have you ever used the services offered at Cabrillo College Job Placement Office?

8. Would you please tell us roughly what your annual income from your current job is? $_____

9. Are you interested in taking more classes at Cabrillo College in the near future? If yes, what classes?

10. Any other comments or suggestions regarding the way Cabrillo prepared you for your occupation?

ATTACHMENT TWO – CORRESPONDENCE WITH PROGRAM DIRECTORS

FROM: Jing Luan, Director, Institutional Research
TO: Occupational Program Directors and Faculty
DATE: Friday, March 20, 1998
SUBJECT: Updating Former Occupational Ed. Students' Information

WHAT I NEED FROM YOU:
After leaving Cabrillo, many of our former occ-ed students have either moved or changed their phone numbers, making the project of surveying these students extremely difficult. Research shows that 25% of the students would relocate one year after graduation from college and 50% would have done so by the second year. I understand that you are our best hope in finding the most recent addresses and phone numbers for these students. Please update the students' addresses and phone numbers on the sheets I have attached to this memo. Please write in red ink and make sure your handwriting is as legible as possible. Believe me, data inputers really appreciate this!

WHEN I NEED THIS:
Please complete your selections no later than **Friday, March 27, 1998**. Please return the sheets in a sealed envelope to my slot in the mailroom or drop by my office (Building 2300).

WHAT YOU GET FROM US:
Rock has explained this well in his memo to you. It is one of the best measures for us to understand and study the outcomes of both Cabrillo's occ-ed programs and our occ-ed students.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS:
Please feel free to contact either myself (Jing) at ext-5719, email 'jiluan' or Rock at ext-6482, email 'rock'.

A FEW WORDS ON THE DATA:
These are the students who have either graduated (completers) in the years of 1995-1996 or 1996-1997 from an occ-ed program, or had left after completing 12 or more units in any given occ-ed program and have not returned as of Fall 97 (leavers). You can find out when the leavers were last enrolled by looking at the "Last Term Enrl" column.
This is confidential information. Please handle with care.

Cc: Rock (memo only)

Completers: Students who graduated with a Certificate or AS degree from an occupational program in 1996-1997.

Leavers: Students who left Cabrillo and did not return in the semesters of Spring 97, Fall 97 and Spring 98, after taking a total of 11.99 or more units in a vocational education department/program.

Note: The data came from those who responded to the survey. The overall response rate was 41% for a total of 1,089 surveys conducted (mail-outs or telephoning). The number of responses to each category may differ. To obtain data reported by individual occupational programs, please contact OIR.